



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending September 18, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

Released September 19, 2005, 4 pm

*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)*

**Good Week for Field Work:** It was another dry week in the Keystone State with minimal rainfall reported. Dry conditions continue to put stress on crops and pastures with little relief in the forecast. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, haymaking, harvesting peaches and apples, planting barley and wheat, harvesting corn, cutting silage, and filling silos.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 18, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
43	47	10	0

**Crops:** Fall plowing is now 37 percent complete; 10 percent ahead of the 5-year average. Forty-two percent of the soybean crop is now dropping leaves, ahead of last year's pace. Soybean conditions increased from last week as 60 percent of the crop is now rated as either good or excellent. Ninety-one percent of the corn crop is at or beyond the dented stage, and 51 percent of the crop is mature. Both crop stages are ahead of the 5-year average, but the mature stage is slightly behind last year's pace. Fourteen percent of the crop is now harvested. The corn silage harvest is in full swing and is now 72 percent complete, well ahead of the 5-year average. Sixty-four percent of potatoes and 95 percent of the tobacco crop are now harvested. Forty-four percent of next year's barley crop is planted, and 31 percent of the crop is already emerged. Both are well ahead of the historic pace. Fifty-three percent of the 4<sup>th</sup> cutting of alfalfa is now complete. Ninety-five percent of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting of timothy is now

complete. The quality of hay made this week was excellent and was rated with the following: 4 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 39 percent excellent.

Eighty-seven percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent. Thirty-one percent of apples and 96 percent of peaches are now harvested.

**Livestock:** Some producers are still being forced to feed hay stocks as dry conditions have caused serious concerns in pastures statewide. Pasture conditions continue to drop to one of their lowest levels of the year and were rated with the following: 37 percent very poor, 34 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 9 percent good, and 1 percent excellent.

**U.S. as of September 11, 2005:** Highlights: Temperatures were above normal across the majority of the Nation, including the Corn Belt, Great Plains, and Rocky Mountains. Below-normal temperatures prevailed along the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts and in parts of the Southeast and Mississippi Delta. Corn: Acreage in the dent stage advanced to 89 percent, compared with 82 percent for the 5-year average. Thirty-six percent of the crop was mature, 10 points ahead of last year but the same as normal. Maturation was ahead of normal in the central and eastern Corn Belt but behind normal in the western Corn Belt and Great Plains. Growers had harvested 6 percent of their acreage, 1 point ahead of last year but 1 point behind normal. Soybeans: Thirty-seven percent of the crop was dropping leaves, 9 points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. Winter Wheat: Producers had sown 12 percent of their crop, compared with 15 percent last year.

# Weather Data For Week Ending September 18, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 18, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	85	57	71	7	1.64	3	16.64	-4.32	56	2,736	405	4,260
Franklin	84	52	69	8	0.48	3	19.94	-3.36	91	2,465	291	4,037
Meadville	82	57	70	9	0.33	3	19.78	-3.43	65	2,559	566	4,127
Mercer	84	53	70	9	0.47	3	21.02	-1.16	88	2,539	386	4,089
Springboro	84	50	68	5	0.82	3	21.65	1.15	71	2,334	32	3,842
Warren	86	51	68	8	0.61	2	17.53	-5.81	66	2,433	325	3,985
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	81	47	65	8	0.15	3	21.35	-2.02	74	1,900	364	3,379
Emporium	85	49	69	11	0.09	2	14.61	-8.59	68	2,429	695	3,982
Kane	82	45	65	9	0.12	1	17.21	-6.53	60	1,841	336	3,311
Laporte	81	43	67	7	0.17	2	21.77	0.26	75	2,213	55	3,722
Lock Haven	89	48	71	9	0.26	3	12.06	-9.12	58	2,783	494	4,386
Port Allegany	83	46	66	9	0.14	1	16.44	-5.62	60	2,096	404	3,579
Renovo	87	49	70	9	0.07	2	11.64	-9.54	55	2,739	450	4,341
Ridgway	83	47	67	9	0.31	2	18.14	-5.06	64	2,126	392	3,653
Stevenson Dam	86	51	70	12	0.10	2	15.05	-8.15	66	2,579	845	4,163
Towanda	89	43	70	9	0.05	2	15.54	-2.35	56	2,564	390	4,130
Wellsboro	82	47	66	9	0.27	1	20.53	2.58	57	2,065	431	3,547
Williamsport	87	50	72	9	1.31	3	20.90	0.05	52	2,942	419	4,556
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	88	40	68	9	0.18	2	15.83	-4.52	59	2,301	434	3,831
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	92	50	74	12	0.29	3	12.03	-7.71	56	3,023	629	4,637
Susquehanna	86	45	69	11	0.17	3	18.33	-3.34	68	2,451	678	3,998
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	86	49	70	8	0.11	2	18.13	-3.96	64	2,588	335	4,202
New Castle	90	50	72	9	0.15	2	21.20	1.09	62	2,812	557	4,422
Slippery Rock	86	53	71	11	0.12	1	19.84	-1.66	65	2,619	590	4,243
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	89	48	70	8	0.09	2	10.64	-8.51	45	2,529	132	4,122
DuBois	82	53	69	9	0.28	2	16.33	-5.86	80	2,382	303	3,957
Lewistown	92	49	73	9	1.26	2	15.88	-4.71	53	2,921	290	4,556
Middletown	91	57	76	10	0.58	2	15.92	-4.49	49	3,394	428	5,069
Prince Gallitzi	86	49	68	8	0.06	2	15.71	-8.96	68	2,253	321	3,799
Selinsgrove	91	48	72	9	0.14	1	17.06	-4.28	54	2,825	363	4,440
State College	86	52	71	9	0.12	3	11.57	-7.78	60	2,771	403	4,395
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	92	53	74	10	0.54	2	18.97	-3.40	58	3,052	339	4,701
Lehighton	88	50	71	8	0.57	3	18.92	-3.27	59	2,777	158	4,405
Matamoras	89	50	71	10	2.39	4	20.60	-1.85	66	2,477	108	4,046
Tobyhanna	89	49	72	15	0.87	4	21.80	-2.07	86	2,731	1,104	4,347
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	86	57	73	10	0.45	2	15.34	-5.09	68	3,083	672	4,742
Derry	88	51	72	10	0.18	2	19.14	-2.19	58	2,631	354	4,247
Myersdale	87	43	67	5	0.03	1	15.74	-7.47	59	2,062	-182	3,585
Mount Pleasant	86	50	69	8	0.05	1	20.35	-3.91	72	2,555	518	4,174
Pittsburgh Intl	85	56	72	9	0.15	1	18.89	-0.35	62	2,933	410	4,575
Rector	87	52	70	9	0.21	1	18.59	-5.67	85	2,569	532	4,185
Waynesburg	88	51	71	8	0.29	1	16.52	-4.55	58	2,666	326	4,294
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	90	54	73	7	0.35	2	20.33	1.16	59	2,996	98	4,649
Everett	87	44	68	5	0.74	1	10.83	-7.79	53	2,125	-264	3,674
Hanover	90	53	73	7	0.00	0	20.37	1.20	52	2,978	80	4,622
Shippensburg	92	53	74	9	0.05	1	19.88	1.15	64	3,037	158	4,678
South Mountain	84	53	70	8	0.00	0	19.18	0.03	53	2,574	184	4,227
York	91	50	73	7	0.00	0	14.15	-6.48	45	3,003	119	4,646
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	91	55	74	10	0.82	3	17.32	-4.37	53	3,051	456	4,707
Hamburg	91	52	73	11	0.27	2	18.36	-6.56	52	3,050	676	4,700
Hopewell	91	55	74	8	0.82	4	21.19	-1.47	76	3,064	18	4,722
Lancaster	90	56	75	10	0.62	3	20.02	-1.80	53	3,124	381	4,778
Neshaminy Falls	91	52	73	9	0.93	3	21.17	-3.98	48	2,896	186	4,527
New Holland	93	56	76	11	1.12	3	17.20	-4.62	51	3,204	461	4,862
Philadelphia	92	64	78	10	0.07	3	16.94	-4.40	50	3,565	421	5,262
Philadelphia NE	93	62	77	9	0.61	3	19.99	-1.35	52	3,468	324	5,154
Reading	93	56	76	12	0.39	2	16.71	-6.61	54	3,276	580	4,936
Valley Forge Na	94	48	74	7	0.59	4	17.84	-4.82	41	2,919	-127	4,545
Willow Grove	90	61	76	11	0.00	0	16.99	-8.16	39	3,205	495	4,877

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

Copyright 2004: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

---

**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA)** - The county continues to be hot and humid during the day and some of the evenings the temperature didn't drop much. It continues to be dry with no precipitation this week. Some moisture is needed for the alfalfa, wheat, and barley that are being seeded.

Crops are looking pretty good. The corn husk and soybean leaves are changing colors rapidly. Corn silage continues to be harvested since the weather has been cooperating. The silage is yielding lots of tons/acre this year.

The forecast is predicting rainfall, but we will have to wait to see if it materializes to benefit the crops.

A few peaches are still being harvested, but coming to an end. Apples are being harvested and overall crops look good and have nice size. The hot and humid weather is not helping fruit growers with some apples scalding, leaving markings on apples due to too much sun which will affect the quality of the apples. Some apples are showing damage from earlier hailstorms in the county which affects the marketing of the apples from fresh to process.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Darrell Tribue (FSA)** - Showers were received sporadically throughout the area Thursday and Friday nights. They provided little relief in the way of moisture, but the high heat and humidity broke.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - Corn silage and potato harvesting was the main event of the week. Yields appear to be below normal. These last two weeks of hot days have dried the corn down fast.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - It continues to be dry with only a tenth of an inch of rain during the week. Good week for field work.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - Corn silage harvest is proceeding extremely well due to dry harvest conditions. Yields are exceeding expectations.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, James Collom** - A few soybean fields over by Hershey were harvested this week. Corn is drying down quickly with the hot and dry weather. The rain that we got on Friday didn't do much to help soil moisture conditions. We need some rain.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - Many farmers have been supplementing winter feed to carry livestock on pasture. Harvesting of corn crop has proven to have above normal yields. Crops grown North of I-80 are ideal.

**FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas** - County is as dry as have ever seen. Streams that have not been dry are lacking water at this time.

**JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler** - Friday's afternoon and evening thunder showers brought first measurable rain since Ag Progress week, with continuing of warm weather the green was returning.

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT)** - Extended drought and heat has resulted in a shortened harvest season for most vegetable crops. The greenwrap tomato harvest concluded 4 weeks ahead of 2004.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS)** - A few scattered thunder storms did help a little with the dry condition. Hopefully, it will help the small grain and cover crops sprout. Silage corn continues to dry down quickly.

**LEBANON COUNTY, Julie Holland (FSA)** - Soybeans that were harvested so far have a light test weight and are small in size.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** - Soil conditions continue to be very dry. Less than a half inch fell this week in most areas, some close to an inch in isolated areas. Most of the corn silage harvest is complete and some short season corn has been shelled. Hay making continues mainly to clean up the fields, quality and quantity are both low. Corn and bean harvest is not too far off.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - The early part of the week was extremely hot and dry. On Friday, we had showers that ranged from .5 to 1.5 inches of needed rain. The corn continues to dry down and there is concern about the test weight on the shaley soils. The size of the soybeans on the lighter soils may be smaller than normal, if the dry weather continues. There was a small amount of excellent quality hay made. The main activities were spreading manure, plowing, cutting silage and making hay.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS)** - Producers are still wishing for soaking rain.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Another week with no rain made for excellent hay and corn silage harvesting. The spotty nature of this season's rainfall has caused county-wide corn silage yields to range from very poor to excellent. High-moisture corn harvest is about to begin on a few farms. Almost no rain has fallen this month over much of the county.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 18, 2005**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	37	28	27
Corn, dough	97	100	93
Corn, dent	91	86	76
Corn, mature	51	52	33
Corn, harvested	14	19	10
Corn silage, harvested	72	66	49
Barley, planted	44	20	16
Barley, emerged	31	4	5
Wheat, planted	11	5	8
Tobacco, harvested	95	99	89
Potatoes, harvested	64	50	50
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	53	42	48
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	95	91	87
Peaches, harvested	96	97	98
Apples, harvested	31	62	43
Grapes, harvested	19	27	17

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 18, 2005**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	3	9	32	47	9
Soybeans	2	7	31	48	12
Quality of hay made	4	3	15	39	39
Pasture	37	34	19	9	1
Apples	3	3	7	57	30

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

United States  
Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Pennsylvania Field Office  
2301 N Cameron St Room G-19  
Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
USDA  
PERMIT NO. G-38